

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 306166
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /048 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:LPOPE/WNHOWELL:JFC
APPROVED BY NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER
-----004385 231916Z /53

R 231704Z DEC 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 306166

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM NEA/ARN DRAPER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: LE, XF, PLO

SUBJECT: PALESTINIAN PRESENCE IN LEBANON

1. YOUR REPORTING ON THIS SUBJECT IS MOST WELCOME.
2. AS WE CONSIDER THIS ASPECT OF LEBANESE SITUATION IN
CONTEXT OF AREA SOLUTION, IT BECOMES MATTER OF SOME INTEREST
TO HAVE AS ACCURATE AN ESTIMATE OF SIZE OF PALESTINIAN
PRESENCE IN LEBANON AS POSSIBLE. ESTIMATE OF 600,000,
USED BY SARKIS AND LEBANESE FRONT, SEEMS INFLATED TO US BUT
ACQUIRES A DEGREE OF RESPECTABILITY THROUGH REPETITION.
WE TEND TO CONCUR WITH YOUR GUESSTIMATE OF ABOUT 400,000
TOTAL. OF THIS TOTAL, WE CARRY ABOUT 199,000 AS REGISTERED
WITH UNRWA, OF WHOM 102,000 LIVE IN CAMPS.
3. WE WOULD WELCOME ANY MORE LIGHT YOU CAN SHED ON NUMBERS
PROBLEM, RECOGNIZING DIFFICULTIES OF PRECISION. WE KNOW
THERE WAS SOME INFLUX AFTER 1967 AND, PARTICULARLY, FOLLOW-
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ING EVENTS OF 1970-71 IN JORDAN. IN ADDITION, ARMED ELE-
MENTS REINFORCED PALESTINIAN PRESENCE DURING CIVIL STRIFE
OF 1975-76. THERE NO WAY, HOWEVER, WE CAN ACCOUNT FOR
APPROXIMATELY 150 TO 200,000 DISCREPANCY BETWEEN GOL FIGURES
AND OUR OWN BEST ESTIMATES, AND WE WOULD LIKE TO EITHER
CLARIFY HIGHER FIGURE OR LAY IT TO REST. VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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